

Serial No. 09/397,849

Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2004

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REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the requirement under 35 U.S.C. §. 119(b) to provide a certified copy of the foreign priority document for European Patent Application No. 98 460 038.7 filed on September 19, 1998. Applicant will be submitting a certified copy to the Office after receiving Examiner's comments on this Reponse.

In the Office Action of May 27, 2004, Examiner allowed claims 1, 3-12, 23 and 25-27. Examiner rejected claims 13-17, 19, 20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In the present amendment, Applicant amends claims 13-15 and 24 to traverse the rejection. No new matter has been added by the present amendments.

Claim 13 is amended to define a size for the reduced header being 8 bits or less. Support for the amendment is found, for example, in the specification at page 6, lines 26 through page 7, line 2.

Claim 14 is amended to depend from claim 12 instead of claim 13.

Claim 15 is amended to replace the phrase "each header" with -- the selected number of headers -- to provide a proper antecedent reference. The term "determined" is also replaced with -- identified -- for clarity.

Claim 24 is amended to replace the term "predetermined information" with -- said information -- to provide a proper antecedent reference. Two grammatical correction are also made to claim 24 as noted in the marked-up claimed listing.

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As claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 depend, directly or indirectly from amended claims 14 and 15, the rejection to such claims are traversed.

Not new subject matter is provided with the present amendments. In view of the present amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13-17, 19, 20 and 24 are compliant with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and respectfully requests that Examiner withdraw the rejection thereunder.

In view of the present amendments, Applicant submits that the claims as provided herein are in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits that this application be permitted to proceed to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss this case further, if necessary.

Respectfully submitted

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Date

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